

Food additives: Celluloses

Published by AGRINFO on 16 Apr 2025

Commission Regulation (EU) [2025/666](#) [...] as regards the use of sodium carboxy methyl cellulose, cellulose gum (E 466) and [...] as regards specifications for cellulose (E 460), methyl cellulose (E 461), ethyl cellulose (E 462), hydroxypropyl cellulose (E 463), hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose (E 464), ethyl methyl cellulose (E 465), sodium carboxy methyl cellulose, cellulose gum (E 466), cross-linked sodium carboxy methyl cellulose, cross linked cellulose gum (E 468) and enzymatically hydrolysed carboxy methyl cellulose (E 469)

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) has withdrawn its authorisation of sodium carboxy methyl cellulose (cellulose gum, E 466) in dietary foods for infants and babies, and has withdrawn its authorisation to add this substance to nutrients used in foods for infants and young children. It has also amended the specifications for all cellulose additives (E 460–E 466, E 468–E 469), in particular reducing the maximum permitted levels for toxic elements (arsenic, lead, mercury, and cadmium).

Timeline

To allow businesses time to find alternatives to cellulose gum (E 466), its use in dietary foods for infants, babies, and young children, or in nutrients used in these foods, will not be permitted from **27 April 2027**.

The new specifications for cellulose food additives (E 460–E 466, E 468–E 469) apply from **27 October 2025**.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

Disclaimer: Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.